

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-11 ACDA-10 (ISO) W
----- 012880

R 231120Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7529
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0103

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AO, BC, RH, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COLIN EGLIN

1. JANUARY 22 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA
DAILY NEWS CARRIES LONG FRONT-PAGE STORY ON VISIT OF COLIN EGLIN,
LEADER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY, TO GABORONE
JANUARY 20 FOR A CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA. HEADLINED QUOTE EGLIN
CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SA, OTHER FROM ANGOLA END QUOTE, STORY
NOTES EGLIN'S VISIT AND QUOTE HIM AS CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL
OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES IN ANGOLA QUOTE INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICAN
TROOPS WHO ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE WAR END QUOTE.
EGLIN IDENTIFIED HIS PARTIES POLICY AS BEING IN FAVOR OF ALLOWING
THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE
FROM THE OUTSIDE. HE SAID HE FOUND IT DISTRESSING THAT RUSSIA
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IS USING THE CONFUSED SITUATION IN ANGOLA TO QUOTE FURTHER HER

OWN IMPERIALISM END QUOTE AND ADDED THAT IT WASN'T CLEAR TO HIM AT THE MOMENT THE EXTEND OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT QUOTE SOUTH AFRICA'S INVOLVEMENT IS DUE TO ANY DESIRE ON THE PART OF MY COUNTRY TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON ANGOLANS END QUOTE. HE ATTRIBUTED SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT PRIMARILY TO ITS ASSESSMENT THAT RUSSIA IS ENDEAVOURING TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. HE ADMITTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE FACTORS UNKNOWN TO HIM WHICH INFLUENCED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PRESENCE. HE STRESSED THE PARTY POLICY WHICH SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HIS PARTY WOULD SUPPORT A GOVERNMENT FORMED OF THE MPLA WITH THE APPROVAL OF ALL ANGOLANS, HE ANSWERED THAT JUST AS VORSTER RECOGNIZED FRELIMO IN MOZAMBIQUE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO RECOGNIZE AN MPLA GOVERNMENT.

2. ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, EGLIN CALLED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE PEOPLE DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL AND BRING THEM TO COURT. HE ALSO CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT REVIEW QUOTE FROM TIME TO TIME END QUOTE OF SENTENCES OF PEOPLE SUCH AS THOSE WHO ARE SERVING LONG SENTENCES ON ROBBER ISLAND. WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA, HE CALLED DETENTE QUOTE PRODUCTIVE END QUOTE BECAUSE IT ENABLED THE NKOMO GROUP OF THE ANC TO COME TOGETHER WITH IAN SMITH. HE HOPED THAT ALL RHODESIANS BLACK AND WHITE WOULD REALIZE THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THEY RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN A PEACEFUL MANNER.

3. COMMENT: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE MEETING WAS AMICABLE AND MAINLY PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EGLIN TO EXPRESS HIS AND HIS PARTIES VIEWS ON ANGOLA. EGLIN APPARENTLY RETURNED DIRECTLY TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM GABORONE. FROM THE MANNER AND TONE USED BY THE OFFICIALS IN DISCUSSING THE EGLIN VISIT, IT IS CLEAR THEY REGARD HIM AS A FRIEND AND ALLY IN SOUTH AFRICA
BOLEN

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